

2000 FFA Hall of Fame Inductee

Fred V. Meinke

Fred V. Meinke was born in Sparta, Wisconsin, and graduated from Sparta High School. While attending high school, Fred was active in the FFA and in sports. He is a charter member of the Sparta Chapter of FFA and the National FFA. Active in the collegiate FFA, Fred graduated from the University of Wisconsin Platteville in 1941 and received his Masters in 1959. Fred taught one class of general agriculture, science, shop, and phys-ed at Wrightstown in 1941-42.

When WWII started Fred joined the Army Air Force. After graduating from the radio and radar schools, he was assigned to the 2nd Bomber Group and left for Africa and Italy where he stayed until the war ended. After being overseas for 32 months, Fred returned home in September of 1945, marrying Kae and taking a position at Stratford, Wisconsin, where he taught agriculture for 7 years. Fred left Stratford for Beaver Dam in 1952, teaching agriculture and serving as their District Transportation Director. Remaining in Beaver Dam, Fred retired from the classroom after 24 years, continuing as Director of Transportation for 5 more years.

Fred was very active in WAVAI, serving as President in 1970. He also served on the State Advisory Committee and worked closely with state officials to improve agricultural education and the FFA.. Fred 's FFA chapters were always very active in the various state activities. Fred received the State Service Award and the Outstanding Alumnus Award from the Agriculture Education Society of UW-Platteville. He was also the recipient of the Honorary State and American Farmer Degrees. Fred has been very active in the American Legion, having served as commander of the Stratford Legion. He has also been an active member of the Lions International for 53 years and is a past President of the Stratford and Beaver Dam Lions Clubs. He is a recipient of the Lions International's highest honor, The Melvin Jones Award, and was recognized for over 50 years of service in the Lions International Club.

Fred and Kae and their family were active members of First Lutheran Church in Beaver Dam. Fred and Kae are presently members of Atonement Lutheran Church in Green Bay, where they moved shortly after retiring. Fred was a substitute teacher in several Ag Departments for six years. Fred and Kae have two daughters, Connie and Elaine, four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.